Frequent toll-gates on NHs

1317. SHRI S.M. LALJAN BASHA: Will the Minister of SHIPPING, ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) the details of demands to remove frequent toll-gates on the NHAI system by the Road Safety Forum;

(b) the objectives of a toll-system for the NHAI;

(c) whether it is a fact that the cost of collection of tolls is more than the tolls collected;

(d) whether it is a fact that there are delays and hurdles at toll-gates;

(e) the steps proposed to find alternative systems of collecting charges from motorists; and

(f) the measures proposed to reduce delays at toll-gates of NHAI?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SHIPPING, ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS (SHRI K. H. MUNIAPPA): (a) No such request has been received from Road Safety Forum.

(b) Objective of toll system is to collect applicable user fee from road users as per the notification published in the official gazette.

(c) No, Sir.

(d) At peak traffic hours, sometimes some delays are experienced at few toll plaza locations.

(e) and (f) National Highways Authority of India (NHAI) is planning to start collection of user fee by introducing Smart Cards and On Board Units. This will further reduce the time taken in collection of user fee.

Hoardings on NHs

1318.. SHRI ABU ASIM AZMI: Will the Minister of SHIPPING, ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government have formulated/proposed to formulate guidelines to prevent the placement of hoardings on National Highways in the country;

(b) if so, the details thereof and if not, the reasons therefor; and

(c) the details of the new measures to be taken by Union Government for regulating the placement of hoardings of reviews/advertisement agencies/political parties on the National Highways?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SHIPPING, ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS (SHRI K.H. MUNIAPPA): (a) and (b) As per Ministry's policy, no advertisements/hoardings are allowed on National Highways land except informatory signs of public interest. However, under the policy of

private sponsorship of road signs and greening of National Highways, the private entrepreneurs are allowed to depict the name/logo of their company in a sign of specified dimension.

(c) Instructions have been issued to executing agencies for removal of unauthorized hoardings.

Plan outlay for NHs in Assam

1319. SHRI URKHAO GWRA BRAHMA: Will the Minister of SHIPPING, ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) the plan outlay earmarked so far for the National Highways development in Assam as part of National plan;

(b) the number of National Highways under six-laning, four-laning and two-laning with their total lengths and upto date progress report in Assam; and

(c) the completion of phase-I Golden Quadrilateral in North Eastern Region?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SHIPPING, ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS (SHRI K. H. MUNIPPA): (a) An amount of Rs. 198.00 crore has been earmarked for expenditure on National Highway works in Assam to be executed through Assam PWD under National Highway (Original) and Special Accelerated Road Development Programme-North East during 2007-08. In addition, National Highways Authority of India and Border Roads Organisation are also incurring expenditure on development of National Highways in Assam, however, their outlays are not State specific.

(b) Details of National Highways under six laning, four laning and two laning in Assam are given below:

Sl. No.	Lanes	No. of NHs	Total Lenegth
1.	Six laning	Nil	Nil
2.	Four laning	5	660.00
3.	Two laning	18	1931.755

Development of National Highways is a continuous process and works are undertaken, from time to time, depending upon necessity and availability of funds. The progress of work is job specific and not necessarily National Highway specific and the works are at different stages of progress.

(c) There is no stretch of Golden Quadrilateral in North Eastern Region.

National drivers' license

1320. SHRI V. HANUMANTHA RAO: Will the Minister of SHIPPING, ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have held discussions with NGOs and State Governments to process a new system of the 'National Drivers, License';